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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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EXPANSION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES AIDS IN WATERFOWL CONSERVATION

Purchase and lease during the past year of more than 30,000 acres for two new wildlife refuges and additions to existing sanctuaries will aid greatly in the conservation of wild ducks and geese for future hunting opportunities, Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence Davis said today.

During fiscal year 1955, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, of which Secretary Douglas McKay is chairman, approved the purchase of 30,189 acres and the lease of 1,151 acres in various parts of the country for waterfowl conservation.

Two new waterfowl refuges, the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas, and the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana, have been made possible by the Commission action.

The new areas will be administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service under its system of Federal wildlife refuges which are strategically located throughout the country. Since January 1953, five new refuges have been established, and a total of 53,704 acres have been acquired for protection of migratory waterfowl.

In Stafford and Rice Counties, Kansas, the acquisition of 1,440 acres was approved under purchase agreement to form the initial tract of the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. In LaSalle Parish, Louisiana, 5,199 acres at the northeast end of Catahoula Lake were approved for purchase, to form the foundation of the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge.

The Commission also approved a number of additions to established refuges. In North Dakota, 2,299 acres were added to the Tewaukon refuge for the protection of waterfowl in the North Dakota-South Dakota pothole region, an important breeding area for wild duck.

In Kentucky and Tennessee the two-State refuge, Reelfoot, was given an additional 250 acres for the conservation of ducks and geese at this major waterfowl concentration point. The Santee refuge in South Carolina, an important waterfowl wintering center, gained 72 acres through Commission action during the year.

Additions were also approved for Laguna Atascosa refuge, Texas; Turnbull refuge, Washington; Chassahowitzka refuge, Florida; Moosehorn refuge, Maine; Monte Vista refuge, Colorado; Malheur refuge, Oregon; Deer Flat refuge, Idaho; Shiawassee refuge, Michigan; Columbia refuge, Washington; and Savannah refuge, South Carolina.

Leases were approved for expansion of Big Lake refuge, Arkansas; Great White Heron refuge, Florida; Monte Vista refuge, Colorado; and Turnbull refuge, Washington.

Since January 1953, five new refuges have been established primarily for migratory birds, and one for the Key deer in Florida. The new waterfowl refuges are: Kirwin in Kansas; Glenn Martin, Maryland; Shiawassee, Michigan; Presquile, Virginia; and Elizabeth Morton, New York.

These acquisitions have added 19,109 acres to the national wildlife refuge program. In addition, through acquisitions on various existing migratory bird refuges, 34,595 acres have been acquired, bringing the total to 53,704 acres.

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